

COUNTRY Eastern Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from Chemnitz

25X1 EVALUATION [] PLACE OBTAINED []

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DATE OF CONTENT 30 June to 12 July 1952

25X1 DATE OBTAINED [] DATE PREPARED 11 August 1952

25X1 REFERENCES []

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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1. On 12 July 1952, the Artillerie Kaserne on the east side of Lenin Strasse, Chemnitz (N 51/K 66), was occupied by about 700 troops who wore black-bordered crimson epaulets and 120 officers from junior lieutenant up to and including lieutenant colonel under the command of a general. About 40 officers were billeted in the barracks installation, 30 in houses Nos 72 through 86 Lenin Strasse, and the commanding officer in house No 76. A total of about 40 trucks was in the billeting area. It was unusual that, during the last 4 weeks, troops leaving the barracks installation did not take along heavy machine guns and light machine guns. A resident stated that, at 3:45 p.m. on 1 July, a column of 9 trucks mounting 300 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and 1 tank truck and 6 other trucks carrying luggage and equipment had left the barracks installation toward the town. During the period from 1 to 7 July, about 300 men in groups of about 20 up to 100 men wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and carrying rifles, assault equipment, suitcases and boxes arrived at the installation from the railroad station. Forty Stalin Students wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and carrying pistols and luggage entered the installation at 1 p.m. on 7 July. Except for some windows, the installation was fully lighted in the evening of 12 July. About 100 soldiers wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets and 6 officers were still performing guard duty in the Sigmar area and were daily relieved in the evening hours. Supervised by 7 officers, including 1 major, 20 to 100 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets were daily engaged in combat practice on the obstacle course on the east side of Jahrmarktplatz from 4 to 12 July. Individual groups up to 40 soldiers with black-bordered crimson epaulets were at close-order drill with rifles every day in the Zeisigwald (woods). Motor vehicles observed in traffic from and to the installation []

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All vehicles were driven by soldiers with black-bordered crimson epaulets. *

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- 2 -

2. According to a resident, a great part of the troops occupying the Infanterie Kaserne on the east side of Lenin Strasse left the installation by truck on the evening of 1 July. They took along rifles, submachine guns and luggage but no heavy weapons. After that day, the installation quartered only about 300 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and 20 officers from junior lieutenant up to and including a major. These troops were equipped with rifles, submachine guns and 30 to 40 trucks. Guns were no longer observed after early June. A loading practice involving 2 officers and 5 troops of this installation was held at the freight station on 9 July.

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The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets and carried rifles. Motor vehicles observed in traffic from and to the installation and which were driven by soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets.

3. During the period from 30 to 3 July, the barracks installations on the north side of Adalbert-Stifter Weg in Chemnitz-Obersdorf quartered the following troops: in their western section about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, about 60 percent with motor transport insignia; and in the eastern section about 500 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets including about 10 percent with red-bordered black epaulets. On 30 June, 60 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets practiced firing in three groups of 20 men each at the adjacent drill grounds. Fifty soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets were seen marching to the installation from the target range. Thirty troops without rifles drilled at the training grounds. From 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on 1 July, 120 soldiers in five groups wearing black-bordered black epaulets were engaged in combat training on the drill grounds. On 3 July, 50 soldiers were at physical exercise in the eastern section of the installation. About 120 soldiers with black-bordered black epaulets marched from the billeting area to the drill grounds where they were later engaged in combat training and close-combat practice.

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* Comment. The information on the occupation of the Artillerie Kaserne and the officers' houses opposite the installation on Lenin Strasse indicates no essential changes as compared with previous reports. The arrival of new troops with black-bordered crimson epaulets between 1 and 7 July and that of 40 Stalin students, who are presumably officer candidates who also wore black-bordered crimson epaulets, on 7 July seems to substantiate a previous assumption, according to which the installation quartered a training unit. This unit, as is indicated by the present report, is an XGB unit.

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** Comment. The Infanterie Kaserne was previously occupied by elements of the 6th (ds AAA Div (US) of the IV Arty Corps. No conclusion can be drawn from the statement by source that no artillery pieces were seen at the installation. Elements of the division were at Lustrow and other elements are believed to be still detached for missions in the uranium mining area.

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Comment. The information confirms the unidentified engineer unit in the Obersdorf barracks installations. The total occupation of the installation is still undetermined.

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